

3/21/21

Hi my name is Sylvia Walker and I want to talk to you about the importance of community involvement.

Unitarian Universalist around the country have committed to dismantling racism beginning with their own practices, their identity and their own stories.

We will need to work together as a congregation and as individuals in support of established organizations that work to deconstruct institutional racism within our communities. One local organization in Scotch Plains Fanwood called Social Justice Matters is doing this type of work. This month's Share the Plate is in support of Social Justice Matters. But you are also invited to get involved by attending a Social Justice Matters quarterly meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30. At this meeting you can hear about the progress of several of their initiatives as well as how to participate in the Racial Healing Circles.

If you attend this meeting you will have a chance to hear about and get involved in these initiatives:

- Juneteenth Celebration
- The Scotch Plains Fanwood Truth Racial Healing and Transformation Committee (TRHT)
- The Kramer Manor Oral History Project
- The April Systemic Racism Series on Environmental Racism
- The May Commemoration of the Tulsa Massacre
- The Community Policing Initiative

I attended their last quarterly meeting in December and I found it very inspiring. I encourage you to attend this quarter's meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Check out the Thursday email blast for the zoom link to attend.

Getting involved and following the lead of local organizations that are working to dismantle the racism is important work. Together we will continue to educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist